



the **RARA RAG**

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 57

MAY, 2005

NO. 9

RARA Annual Meeting & Elections

By Tim Magee, WB2KAO
Vice-President, RARA

The May RaRa "Annual Meeting" and Elections will be held on May 6, 2005 at Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road. A report of the Nominating Committee and information about all of those who were nominated for office is shown on following pages of the RAG.

The meeting will again be a celebration of Old Timers' night, a tradition that goes back over forty years. In more recent years, perhaps twenty or so, that has also meant a program provided for RaRa by the Antique Wireless Association and the folks from their wonderful museum. Continuing that practice will be the current museum Curator, a RaRa past President and today an ARRL Atlantic Division Assistant Director, our own Ed Gable K2MP. Ed has selected a theme for the evening that will take us through a history of conquering the Atlantic by means of electronic communication. Ed will tell us about the first undersea telegraph, the first transatlantic wireless message, the first two-way wireless, the first telephone and much more. Certainly the contribution Amateur Radio played in conquering the air-waves across the ocean will be dealt with in Ed's multi-media presentation. Don't miss this one.

RARA - RRRA Joint Picnic, Sat June 18

By Tim Magee, WB2KAO
Vice-President, RARA

This year the annual Spring picnic will be a joint effort by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association. It will be held at the "Old Meadow Shelter" in Ellison Park. Activities will get started at 11:00AM with food and soda being served throughout the day. As usual RARA will be furnishing the hot dogs, rolls and soda pop. We would ask that you bring some kind of a dish to share with your fellow hams and friends. Things like beans, salads, deserts, or munchies would be appreciated.

Max Kessler, N2MXD from RRRA promises to provide some fun for the hams in the way of a hidden transmitter hunt. He says the only thing you will need is your hand held radio.

The annual picnic is always a family fun time for all, including the kids. We hope to see you there. Additional details, as they become available will be posted on the RARA Web Site at www.rochesterham.org and talk-in on the picnic day will be on the RRRA Repeater, 146.88mhz.

RaRa MEETING

May 6, 2005

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road

**Annual Meeting, Elections
and Old Timers' Night**

SILENT KEYS

Steven J. Block, KC8BTE

February 21, 2005

Roland Janes, K2JWJ

March 16, 2005

F. Amy Stevenson, KC2BS

April 8, 2005

the RARA RAG

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Hamfest General Chairman.....Harold Smith, K2HC

Media Communications.....Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

License Class Chairman.

Awards Chairman.....Greg Michels, KC2GXV

Education Chairman.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Web Page Administrator.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY

RARA Directory Editor.....Dick Goslee, KG2I

Club Station Trustees.....K2JD, Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

W2EOC, Brad Armstrong, W1YX

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RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Brad Armstrong, W1YX

President, RARA

With the annual Rochester Hamfest coming up which includes the ceremonial "passing of the gavel" I'd like to take a moment to reflect on all the progress that we have made as an organization in the past few years.

With the inevitable losses and obstacles that occur in the life of an organization, I cannot help but be proud to see that the Rochester Amateur Radio Association is growing stronger once again. This is a reversal of the general downward trend in involvement in ham radio clubs in recent years. I believe this is due in large part to the willingness of skilled members of our community to come and share their experience at meetings in the form of presentations. I know this would not be possible without the dedication of those hard working 'conscriptees' we usually refer to by such lofty titles as 'Committee Chairman' or 'Board Member' or 'Editor'. In fact, my ability to serve effectively as leader of this organization has been only as good as those folks who I have found willing to accept the delegation of the many tasks which need to happen to keep things running smoothly. This seems to me to be all fairly easy to see, but there is something which we as members of RARA, and of the local amateur radio community, often lose sight of with all that is going on in our lives. It is that just showing up to a meeting or an activity is perhaps the most significant thing we can do to support an organization.

I have been delighted to see the strong attendance at the meetings in recent years and would encourage all of you who read this to at least simply show up and enjoy the exchange of ideas and camaraderie at meetings of your favorite local amateur radio club, be it RARA, RARRA, RDXA, RVHFG or any of the many other fine local groups. The most important step you can take to improve amateur radio for yourself and the whole community is to simply show up. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting of RARA or your favorite local club!

Rochester Hamfest

June 3-4-5, 2005

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

Nominating Committee Report

To: Brad Armstrong, President
RARA
From: Peter Fournia
Date: March 31, 2005
Subject: RARA Nomination Committee Report

Following are the results of our nomination committee. We recommend these people and nominate them for the designated RARA offices. All these people have accepted the nomination.

President

The committee does not have a nominee, however, the committee is aware of a highly qualified person who will accept a nomination from the floor. We have not nominated this person because he is a member of this committee.

Vice President

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

Secretary

Edward Turkowski, N2KVZ

Treasurer

George Masny, KA2GPJ

Board of Directors

Joseph Brown Jr., K2KYW

Rosario Mazzola, KC2LOC

James DiTucci, N2IXD

William Hopkins, AA2YV

James Stefano, W2COP

Regards,

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, Committee Chairman

Committee Members:

Richard Goslee, KG2I

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

Candidates for President

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

With this year's special circumstances (No incumbent VP accepting the Presidency) I felt it important - in fact the entire Nominating Committee felt it important - that a Past-President step up to the plate to guide the board through this next year. I am pleased to 'sign-up' for that duty.

I have had the privilege to serve RARA since 1980 in a variety of positions including two terms as President and now Public Service Chair. During that time RARA Meetings - together with the Rag - have become the main venue where local hams learn more about all aspects of amateur radio. The

Club has become a leader in placing the positive image of amateurs before the public.

It takes a constant flow of new and 're-newed' ideas to keep amateur radio moving forward. Your opinions and ideas are the ones that will help shape the future of amateur radio in our area. Working with the Officers and the Board, I can help implement the best of the best of your ideas to keep the Club moving into the future.

I deeply appreciate the confidence you have in me to do more than just a good job for RARA. With your ongoing support I am confident that I can work with every Board Member, Officer and Committee Chair to enhance our Club, make the links stronger with our allied radio clubs and promote amateur radio to the public.

Thank you again for your support. I'll count on your input as we go through the coming year together to make good things happen in Rochester for amateur radio and our Club.

Richard Goslee, KG2I

This year the membership of RARA will have a unique opportunity. You will have the chance to elect a President for the first time in modern history. Normally, as directed by the by-laws, the membership elects a Vice-President who, after serving his term of office, becomes the President the following season. This year we do not have an elected Vice-President to follow this routine. You now have to make a choice.

I have been a member of RARA for 25 years. I was elected to the Board of Directors in 1983 and was appointed to head the Finance Committee. I was elected Vice-President in 1985 and I became President in 1986. When my term was completed In 1987 I was elected Treasurer. I held that office until I retired in 2004. I have been the Editor of the "RaRa Directory" since the late 80's and I am now the Editor and Advertising Manager of the "RaRa RAG." In addition I taught the Novice/Tech class for 5 years and I also taught the Advanced class for a couple of years.

RARA has grown over the years in its accomplishments within the Amateur Community. The help of many dedicated individuals working under the various Committee Chairmen did this. Those same people will be in place for the coming year so that we may continue to grow.

The Board of Directors and committee heads, as mandated by the By-laws, handle the business of running the organization on a daily basis.

(continued on next page)

I believe that the volume of committee reports and business conducted at the regular monthly General Membership meetings should be limited to just the essentials. In-depth reports and discussions should be for the Board meetings.

I believe the membership attends the regular Club meetings to meet their friends, and enjoy the speaker of the evening. If elected, I am going to strive to limit the business portion of the meeting to about 20 minutes. This will give us time enough for the Secretary and Treasurer's reports and the update on upcoming Public Service events. In addition there will be time for reports from other clubs on their next meetings. This will then leave the balance of the evening so that we all can enjoy the speaker of the evening and the social time with our fellow hams. Other reports of general interest will be printed in the RAG each month so the all members, not just those in attendance at meetings, can receive the information.

Candidate for Vice-President

William Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

I know that our real-estate, our Amateur frequency assignment, is literally worth billions of dollars in auctions to commercial interests. Accordingly, I encourage all experimentation, operation, activity, and testing especially in our VHF/UHF/microwave bands. We must keep our public-service face forward – this is the best argument we have to retain our spectrum assignment. I know that amateurs will continue to make strides in developing new breakthroughs in communication technology and modes in the years ahead.

I have completed all three ARRL Emergency Communications Courses, the Red Cross Disaster and Shelter Training series, and FEMA's CERT training. Also, I am a member of ARES and RACES, and have assisted with Monroe County's all hazard radio 'Project Prepare'.

In RaRa, I have volunteered as the General Class theory instructor for five years, and Secretary for three years. First licensed in 1964, I hold an old Amateur Extra Class license, and have achieved DXCC, WAS and WAC. I consider myself an avid CW rag-chew operator, and am serious about QSLing chores. My volunteer activities have included several years in the Thruway Pumpkin Patrol, the K2RRA/Hamfest talk-in-station, walk-athons, Monroe County FM Net control operator, and Scout Jamboree On-The-Air Special Event stations as an operator and QSL manager.

I hold a GROL – FCC 1st Phone with Radar Endorsement, and have worked in commercial radio and TV in the Rochester area. My experience also includes network and microwave engineer for a wireless ISP. I spent many years as a Unix system administrator. Currently, I am a student at Roberts Wesleyan College in the Organizational Management Business program.

My military experience at Fort Benning included working in the educational TV facility, and overseas I was the Training NCO for my USARV unit. Additionally, I worked in a commercial 2-way radio shop and ran the (Kodak) Elmgrove 2-way radio, repeater and pager shop for several years. Other experience includes broadband and computer network plants, operations control center and a high voltage welding laser lab/production area, copier and electronic servicing.

I volunteered in Scouts for about 15 years as an Assistant Scout and Cub Master, Den leader and Awards Manager. I also worked on adult scout leader training sessions, monthly roundtables and earned adult Woodbadge and Order of the Arrow. I am an ARRL and FISTS CW club member.

Candidate for Secretary

Edward Turkowski, N2KVZ

Greetings fellow operators, my name is Ed Turkowski and I would be privileged to serve as your next club Secretary. I have been a licensed ham since 1989, originally issued the call sign KB2HIM and since upgrading to Tech Plus was assigned the call N2KVZ. While raising a family briefly put the hobby on hold, I again have a renewed interest in our hobby. I particularly enjoy involvement in the emergency operations and community service aspects as well as building various kits and projects in my "spare" time. Maureen, my wife of 20 years, and two daughters, one a freshman at Nazareth and the other an eighth-grader, have grown accustomed to hearing the beeps and whistles emanating from the basement, and even show interest in my excitement of receiving a packet message relayed by the International Space Station. I am employed by the Penfield Central School District as their Director of Technology where I get to nurture the use of technology as a learning tool for today's students. It is a career I enjoy very much. If elected I will do my very best to serve you, the members of RaRa. QRV and 73s. Ed

Candidate for Treasurer

George Masny, KA2GPJ

One thing you may not know about me is that I dislike wearing a hat, but when it comes to RARA, I currently wear two - one as Treasurer of RARA and the other as its Membership Chairman. A five-year veteran of the RARA Board of Directors, I hold a General Class license, and have managed to keep the call active since 1975 in spite of being married and helping my wife raise three wonderful kids.

I have been fiddling with radios since 1957, when I used a toilet paper roll core to wind the coil for a crystal set. The radio worked great - it picked up a lot of Spanish speaking stations, which was not much of a surprise as I was living in Buenos Aires at the time. My first ham radio experience was in 1965 when a neighborhood Elmer in NYC introduced me to the joys of working DX on 15 and chewing the rag on 2M AM using a Benton Harbor lunch box. Currently, packet radio is my primary interest, and for the past 20 years or so, I have been operating packet radio and keeping the Kodak Park node (KPARK) and BBS (ROCBBS-WB2WXQ) running. I am currently the last elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Kodak Park Amateur Radio Club, a member of the Rochester Amateur Packet Society and trustee for the RAPS APRS digipeater (KB2WYA), and last, but not least, I maintain the RochesterSpecialEvents and RARA-General e-mail reflectors on <http://groups.yahoo.com/> Stop by and sign in sometime!

Candidates for Board of Directors

Bradford Armstrong, W1YX

My first license grant from the FCC was in April of 1993 as a Technician, N2UNV. Over the years I have been involved in many public service events such as the Tour de Cure, the MS Bike Tour, the Pumpkin Patrol, and the Rochester Air Show. I have also served in local emergency responses, the highlight of which was running a net from the new OEP Command Center on Scottsville Road.

I've participated in a few contests, including a number of Field Days, which I enjoy mostly for the opportunity to bring ham radio out into public and for the challenge of operating under temporary field conditions. I've been active as a net control on 2 meters for Monroe County FM Net and others.

Most of my club involvement until the past few years was with the Rochester Radio Repeater Association, including serving on the Technical

Committee and two years as Club Secretary. I took over ownership of the 147.18 repeater in 2002 and did a major rework of the equipment during the Winter of 2002/2003. I currently sit on the Board of the Rochester Radio Repeater Association and am Secretary and an FCC Committee Regional Representative for the Upper New York Repeater Council. My interest in emergency communications has lead to my appointment as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Monroe County ARES.

I am also proud to be a member of the American Radio Relay League and hold an appointment in their Field Organization as a Technical Specialist. Most recently I have been serving as President of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and as our Acting License Class Director. I would like to continue to serve RARA from the Board by improving the licensing classes and rebuilding our Club station.

Joseph R. "Rob" Brown, K2KYW

Thank you for considering me to serve on the BOD. I am retired after working for 20 years in Fossil Fuel Generating plants and over 25 years in Nuclear Reactor plants. My radio interests started years ago, listening and logging DX AM broadcast stations. Later I got a short-wave receiver and learned about Amateur Radio. I earned my Novice ticket in 1978 and have been licensed ever since. I currently hold an Amateur Extra license.

My other interests are photography, astronomy and meteorology. My ham interests include DX, QRP, auroral and propagation factors, satellite tracking, and of course the constant search for the "ultimate antenna." I am a member of the ARRL, RaRa and RRRA. I also participate in ARES, Skywarn and Public Service activities.

Elected or not, I will continue to support these organizations and strive to protect the privileges we amateurs have.

James DiTucci, N2IXD

In 1959 my uncle, an Electrical Engineer at General Dynamics, handed me a metal parts cabinet full of strange looking devices. These components, manufactured by companies like General Electric, Raytheon, RCA, Sylvania, Scientific Radio Products, Cornell Dubilier, Sangamo, and others were stamped with identifiers like 2N43, CK722, 2N229, 3655 KC, and .0001 MFD/5000V. In another box were dozens of electron tubes in all shapes, sizes and construction, stamped with numbers like 6Q7, 1H4 and 807. My uncle said to me, "In these boxes you will find magic. Have fun!" And that I did!

In April 2003 while on vacation in North Carolina, Bob Fox KB2XI handed me a business card that said "I'm Radio-Active" and talked to me about his involvement with amateur radio. When I returned home I discovered that the testing and licensing structure had changed since Bob's day and that Morse code was no longer needed for an entry level license. I decided to give it a try and took the test at the Rochester Hamfest in June of 2003. Shortly thereafter I bought an HT and started playing around on the local repeaters where I met WB2RJB (my former Industrial Arts teacher in middle school) and WA2NQS (my former scoutmaster). These two gentlemen welcomed me into the hobby with open arms and answered question after question regarding repeaters, antennas and radios. That summer, I started taking my radio on camping trips and discovered IRLP. The thought of using my HT to talk to hams all over the world from my campsite was an incredible thrill. By the end of summer I knew that I wanted to operate on the HF bands and signed up for the RaRa Morse Code and the General License classes beginning in September. WA2NQS added an extra incentive for me- "Earn your HF privileges and I'll give you my old Heathkit Twins." That's all the push I needed and by December 2003 I had earned my General Class license. Not being one to sit still for too long I signed up for the RaRa Extra Class license course and earned my full privileges by May of 2004. Since then, I've taken my FT-817 on several "mini DXpeditions" including trips to the Adirondacks and the Thousand Islands. I also joined the Monroe County ARES where I've been having fun working on public service events. Last fall I also had the chance to ride along with the Radiological Assessment Field Team during the Ginna pre-drill. I enjoy both VHF and HF operations and you can occasionally find me operating PSK-31 mode. I use only homebrewed antennas right now because they're cheap and easy to put up.

Since beginning in amateur radio, I've had the pleasure of meeting and associating with so many terrific RaRa members that to list them all would be impractical. Every single one has been friendly and helpful. Some have invited me to their shacks, some have given me wire and other electronic parts for projects; others have taken the time to answer email questions or to help me find equipment. I even had the not so unique experience of having WA2MYG tell me on the Sunday night Newbie Net, "You've got to read the manual!" RaRa has been a great place to meet experienced hams. Without them, I doubt that I'd be as involved in amateur radio as I am today. I would like to help the club continue its mission to welcome and mentor new operators by being a member of your Board of Directors. I think

I can add a newcomers perspective of the hobby by accentuating some of the things that attracted me to the club and by suggesting ideas that will continue to keep the club's activities interesting, educational and fun. Look for me at the next RaRa meeting. I'll be the one with the "I'm Radio-Active button"!

George Platteter, AA2FO

I became a licensed as a Technician in 1982 to fly radio controlled model airplanes on 6 meters; upgrading to General and then to Extra.

I became a Contact Volunteer Examiner (VEC), and for a number of years served as RARA License Testing Director. I served several years as editor of the RARA Rag, a very enjoyable and rewarding activity. Recently, as Vice President, President, and presently as a Board Member, I was privileged to work with and encourage many members to become active.

The RARA organization and Amateur Radio have a diverse range of exciting interests. I believe we should keep abreast of technologies and have fun doing it. It is important that we share our talents with others. I look forward to continue being a contributing member of the Board of Directors in 2005-2006 to help meet the needs of our Club members and support the excitement to enlist new members.

James Stefano, W2COP

I was born in Rochester, NY., October 18th, 1957 and currently residing at the north end of Conesus Lake since 1990. I grew up in Henrietta where my dad helped me build my first wireless receiver at the age of 5. I've been a licensed ham for over 30 years and attended my first RaRa meeting in 1975. My concentration has always been in VHF/UHF FM communications and repeaters.

In 1992 I built and installed the amateur radio packet gateway node for Livingston County as part of the original NEDA Network. In 1996 I was one of the early pioneers of Radio/IP, linking repeaters world-wide via the Internet. I've made voice and data contacts with the International Space Station along with my involvement in the ARISS program. Currently I'm the trustee of the 146.61 Monroe County and 147.03 Livingston County repeaters, and active with ARES/RACES.

I recently retired as a Police Sergeant after 21 years in law enforcement and now manage Information Technology for RIT's Electrical Engineering Department where I'm also the Technical Advisor to the RIT Amateur Radio Club. My other interests include astronomy, audio, computers and music, having been a pianist for the past 40 years.

(continued on next page)

With a handful of those parts I spent hours in the library searching through radio and electronics books trying to match those parts to pictures. Armed with "The Boys' First Book of Radio and Electronics," by Alfred Morgan, I returned home eager to experiment. I built project after project, using and reusing those parts until the leads broke off or they fizzled in smoke.

My penchant for the magic of radio led me to far-away destinations. I built several communications receivers and transmitters. Through a newfound interest in short wave listening I developed a love of Geography and International Affairs.

In later years while serving on Army active duty I had the great joy of becoming intimately familiar with the under-hood operation and maintenance of classic communication equipment like the R-390, T-195, TT-77, TT-98 and other AN/GRC series HF/VHF tactical communications systems manufactured by venerable companies such as Collins, Stromberg-Carlson, Harris and others. As an early participant in the '70s computer revolution, I was well positioned to build a career in IT sales and later in technical support that continues to this day.

Along the way my desire to experiment brought me to the RaRa Hamfest in search of the strange, unusual and hard-to-find. By the early '80s I was involved as a regular Hamfest Exhibitor and drafted as a Holdsworth Coolie. Yet all of this took place before I ever entertained the urge to pick up a microphone. But in 1988, nearly 30-years after my uncle presented me with that box of magic, I earned my first ticket. I upgraded to Extra Class (the hard way) in 1991.

Today I pursue my passion in the following areas: Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Monroe County ARES, Vice President, Rochester Radio Repeater Association, ARRL Official Emergency Station (OES), ARRL EMCOMM Certification – Level I/II, FEMA Incident Command System Certification and American Red Cross Disaster Services training

In the last few years I have been involved in many Amateur Radio interests. They include: APRS, SKYWARN, ARRL DXCC, National Traffic System – Western District Net, Winlink-2000, Wi-Fi, Project METEOR, Radio Coaches, PSK-31, DXCC Millennium Award, AMSAT, TinyTrak, EMCOMM, ARISS, Wireless Literacy, ARES/RACES, Field Day, VoIP, and once again, Holdsworth Coolie. Above all, I have never lost my passion for experimenting. Corner me on any of these topics and I will be more than eager to talk your ear off.

When I am not involved in an Amateur Radio activity you are likely to find me at my bench meticulously crafting a Hi-Vis Comparadun or Mini Muddler, or perhaps somewhere in the Catskill Mountains perfectly presenting a #22 Micro-Midge through a well-defined current seam. (No, this is not Ham Radio double-speak.) Of course, even then, you will find my HT hanging on my belt.

Ask me what my proudest Amateur radio accomplishment is and I will quickly reply that it was working with my 11-year old daughter Kira (KD2FBI) to get her ticket.

What will the future bring? It's clear to me that the future of our hobby rests in our hands and that it hinges on growing participation and membership – in Amateur Radio, in RaRa, and especially in increasing youth membership. It's for these reasons that I believe I should continue serving on the RaRa Board of Directors. It is here that I feel I can best steer the pursuit of our future. After all, isn't it time to share the magic?

William Hopkins, AA2YV

First licensed, 1960 as KN7NPF in Seattle. Re-entered hobby, 1995, as KB2TQF. Extra Class license. Memberships: ARRL, RARA, AWA, Ten-Ten; Board member, RARA (4 yrs.), Antique Wireless Association Museum (3 yrs.). Former Acting RARA Board Secretary (2003-2004). RARA activities: Several RAG articles, Rochester Hamfest presentation and displays; K2JD Station Re-development Committee, RARA-Kodak-Otetiana Explorers Electronics Classes (3 yrs.); other public service events. Special interests: boat anchors, kits, QRP, DXCC, 2 Meter ragchewing.

Statement of purpose: I believe Club growth is a positive, long-term process that should involve as many members as possible. Our Club's recent educational focus on youth education serves both ham radio and our local community. For me, Emergency Service, Public Service and Education are our priorities; the pure enjoyment of hamming is an added bonus. Ham Radio must change with the times and always remain a members' organization.

Rosario Mazzola, KC2LOC

I'm honored and flattered to think that a "newbie" such as myself would be nominated for a position on the RaRa Board of Directors. You see it wasn't that long ago that I became a ham but thanks to the club and its members; I've learned quite a bit in a very short period of time.

In April 2003 while on vacation in North Carolina, Bob Fox KB2XI handed me a business card that said "I'm Radio-Active" and talked to me about his involvement with amateur radio. When I returned home I discovered that the testing and licensing structure had changed since Bob's day and that Morse code was no longer needed for an entry level license. I decided to give it a try and took the test at the Rochester Hamfest in June of 2003. Shortly thereafter I bought an HT and started playing around on the local repeaters where I met WB2RJB (my former Industrial Arts teacher in middle school) and WA2NQS (my former scoutmaster). These two gentlemen welcomed me into the hobby with open arms and answered question after question regarding repeaters, antennas and radios. That summer, I started taking my radio on camping trips and discovered IRLP. The thought of using my HT to talk to hams all over the world from my campsite was an incredible thrill. By the end of summer I knew that I wanted to operate on the HF bands and signed up for the RaRa Morse Code and the General License classes beginning in September. WA2NQS added an extra incentive for me- "Earn your HF privileges and I'll give you my old Heathkit Twins." That's all the push I needed and by December 2003 I had earned my General Class license. Not being one to sit still for too long I signed up for the RaRa Extra Class license course and earned my full privileges by May of 2004. Since then, I've taken my FT-817 on several "mini DXpeditions" including trips to the Adirondacks and the Thousand Islands. I also joined the Monroe County ARES where I've been having fun working on public service events. Last fall I also had the chance to ride along with the Radiological Assessment Field Team during the Ginna pre-drill. I enjoy both VHF and HF operations and you can occasionally find me operating PSK-31 mode. I use only homebrewed antennas right now because they're cheap and easy to put up.

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George Platteter, AA2FO

I became a licensed as a Technician in 1982 to fly radio controlled model airplanes on 6 meters; upgrading to General and then to Extra.

I became a Contact Volunteer Examiner (VEC), and for a number of years served as RARA License Testing Director. I served several years as editor of the RARA Rag, a very enjoyable and rewarding activity. Recently, as Vice President, President, and presently as a Board Member, I was privileged to work with and encourage many members to become active.

The RARA organization and Amateur Radio have a diverse range of exciting interests. I believe we should keep abreast of technologies and have fun doing it. It is important that we share our talents with others. I look forward to continue being a contributing member of the Board of Directors in 2005-2006 to help meet the needs of our Club members and support the excitement to enlist new members.

James Stefano, W2COP

I was born in Rochester, NY., October 18th, 1957 and currently residing at the north end of Conesus Lake since 1990. I grew up in Henrietta where my dad helped me build my first wireless receiver at the age of 5. I've been a licensed ham for over 30 years and attended my first RaRa meeting in 1975. My concentration has always been in VHF/UHF FM communications and repeaters.

In 1992 I built and installed the amateur radio packet gateway node for Livingston County as part of the original NEDA Network. In 1996 I was one of the early pioneers of Radio/IP, linking repeaters world-wide via the Internet. I've made voice and data contacts with the International Space Station along with my involvement in the ARISS program. Currently I'm the trustee of the 146.61 Monroe County and 147.03 Livingston County repeaters, and active with ARES/RACES.

I recently retired as a Police Sergeant after 21 years in law enforcement and now manage Information Technology for RIT's Electrical Engineering Department where I'm also the Technical Advisor to the RIT Amateur Radio Club. My other interests include astronomy, audio, computers and music, having been a pianist for the past 40 years.

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, May 1985

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The May meeting featured Vern English, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Airport's National Weather Service, speaking on SKYWARN and how Amateurs can help track severe weather. RaRa President Ray Roberts, WA2SSU, wrote urging members to get involved with plans for the June ARRL Field Day event. Pete Secrist, WB2SUN, reported that the Xerox repeater, WB2IMT/R, is being replaced. This issue was filled with three full pages of Hamfest information. Chairman Harold Smith, K2HC, promised another outstanding event featuring a large flea market, days of programming, a huge ARRL forum and VEC Exams by Metroplex. Rich McCracken, N2EEL, wrote informing all of the NYS Sales tax requirements for casual flea market sales. Some may remember the 1981 Hamfest where NY State tax officials "raided" the flea market and essentially closed down the event. All subsequent events have been problem free even though NYS Bills to exempt ham equipment sales tax failed.

At this time Attorney Sherwood Snyder, W2KFU, was writing a column titled *Legal Lines*. This month Sherwood wrote on laws and legal remedies in the field of RF radiation hazards. It was with regret that the following well known local amateurs were reported as silent keys: Cyril Staud, 8AP, K2DQ, first licensed Rochester area Ham and founder of the St. Paul Radio Club, Victor LoTempio, W2RIS, well liked proprietor of the Amateur Department at Rochester Radio Supply Company, and William Bellow, W2MG, RaRa Life Member and past President and an active RDXA member.

A long term advertiser remained Huether Communications on Ames Street. From the Want Ads you could buy sixty-two and one-half feet of RG-218/U coax from Irv Goodman, AF2K.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

ARRL president Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is looking for usable (i.e., working) radio gear, accessories, laptops and electronic test equipment to donate to IARU member-societies and current and prospective radio amateurs in Central America. He

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just returned from a visit there last month, and consequently saw the need among radio amateurs there. He can be contacted at w5jbp@arrl.org. [ARRL PR Email Reflector]

Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Media and Public Relations Manager for the ARRL suggested an odd, if not original, way to stimulate interest in amateur radio. Allen states, "Many businesses have a day set aside for parents to bring their child to work. But how about bringing your HT? Most of us have one (or more) of these little guys sitting there, looking forlorn as we go off on our daily tasks. Why not bring the little fellow along one day? How about June 21st?" Allen's idea is that if you keep the HT clipped to your belt all day, fellow workers might ask you questions about the new belt accessory. Surely it's too large to be a cell phone. You, in turn, can tell them about amateur radio and how easy it is to get an entry level license. [ARRL PR Email Reflector]

Indonesian Amateur Radio Emergency Service (IARES) volunteers worked in difficult conditions to establish VHF links between earthquake-stricken Nias Island and northern Sumatra. In Jarkarta, the Organization of Amateur Radio for Indonesia (ORARI) headquarters called on all ORARI members to be ready to assist Nias Island, which was hit March 28 by magnitude 8.2 and 8.7 earthquakes. The goal was to secure both VHF and HF frequencies to handle emergency traffic. An ORARI team set up a station at the Indonesian Public TV tower near Gunung Sitoli, the largest city on Nias Island. As of this writing, it is in contact the ORARI District 6 command post in Medan in Sumatra. The ORARI team already has had EMCOMM experience following the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. [ARRL News Service]

International Space Station Commander Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW, will double up on the number of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group QSOs during his remaining two weeks of operation from NA1SS. ARRL Field & Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, says Chiao has enjoyed speaking via ham radio with students on Earth during his ISS duty tour. "Sparking youth interest in science and technology is quite high on the list of what's important to astronauts and to NASA," she said, noting that NASA's Education Office has been strongly supporting Amateur Radio in space for more than a decade. Since Expedition 10 began last October, Chiao has logged 22 ARISS school group contacts. White said putting together the many pieces of an ARISS school-group QSO make it tricky for an eleventh-hour success. ARISS moved up a scheduled QSO for a school in Zurich whose volunteers are well-prepared. For the second extra

slot, ARISS scrambled to make arrangements with a NASA Explorer School where a teacher submitted an ARISS application because she's interested in using ham radio in class. For this QSO with the Flory Academy of Sciences and Technology, in Moorpark, California, ARISS plans to employ a combination of Amateur Radio and teleconferencing rather than attempt to set up a direct QSO. [ARRL News Service]

Project OSCAR, the oldest Amateur Radio club dedicated to amateur satellites, has inaugurated a service aimed at encouraging satellite newcomers. "The Satellite Beacon" is a monthly column produced by Project OSCAR members that Amateur Radio newsletter editors may freely republish. Topics cover a wide range of satellite topics geared to new or novice satellite users. "We looked at the landscape of amateur satellite usage, and it appeared that there were geographical areas where there were no mentors for potential satellite users," said Project OSCAR Vice President and Beacon Editor Emily Clârke, W0EEC. "If there are no mentors, there are likely to be no satellite operators." Clarke says that by publishing "The Satellite Beacon," Project OSCAR hopes to provide a reliable source of information about amateur satellites at the local level and keep interest in ham radio high as the solar minimum approaches. Articles are available as both Adobe Acrobat (PDF) and MS-Word documents. Newsletter editors may subscribe to a monthly electronic distribution or download any of the currently available articles directly from "The Satellite Beacon" Web page. For more information, visit the Project OSCAR Web site: <http://www.projectoscar.net>. [ARRL News Service]

In yet another story that links amateur radio to space initiatives, President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate Michael Griffin, NR3A, to be the next administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He'll succeed Sean O'Keefe, who departed NASA earlier this year to become chancellor of Louisiana State University. Griffin currently heads the Space Department at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Prior to that, he was president and chief operating officer of In-Q-Tel Inc, served in several positions within Orbital Sciences Corporation and was NASA's chief engineer. In 2003 testimony before the US House of Representatives' Future of Human Space Flight Committee on Science, Griffin described himself as "an unabashed supporter of space exploration in general, and of human space flight in particular." He expressed his belief that the human space flight program "is in the long run possibly the most significant activity in which our nation is engaged." His academic resume is extensive and impressive.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins, holds master's degrees in aerospace science, applied physics, business administration, civil engineering and electrical engineering and a doctorate in aerospace engineering. And as a licensed ham it is safe to say the ARISS program will receive continued endorsement. [ARRL News Service]

Chatter – Dispatches from the Secret World of Global Eavesdropping by Patrick Radden Keefe [Random House, 2005] is not a book about ham radio *per se*, but it is a book that a person with ham radio expertise will find fascinating. The book details the massive and intricate signal intelligence technology of the National Security Agency [NSA, or because it is so secretive sometimes called "No Such Agency"]. It chronicles the history of signal intelligence [SigInt] operations, and how the NSA, and its UK counterpart GCHQ [Government Communication Headquarters], engage in eavesdropping on radio signals of ALL kinds. The SigInt history is traced from Marconi's "wireless" to the 9-11 debacle. A name that hams revere, Collins Radio Company, is mentioned in the book. It played a significant role in establishing and equipping a large NSA listening base deep in the Australian Outback in the 1960s, a station that decades later listened to "chatter" in Afghanistan. As an indication of its central role, Collins actually set up an office in the remote Outback town of Alice Springs three years before the base was built!

Local Hamfest Awards

By Harold Smith, K2HC
Rochester Hamfest General Chairman

Because the Rochester Hamfest is not an ARRL division convention, this year we have the opportunity to honor our local amateur radio colleagues at the annual Rochester Hamfest Awards Dinner to be held Friday, June 3, at the Holiday Inn Rochester South.

Your services are required to name the award recipients. We are looking for a person to be named "Amateur of the Year", another the "Grand 'Ole Ham", and perhaps someone to be honored for his or her technical achievements.

Everybody knows someone deserving of receiving at least one of those awards. All you need do to nominate your person is to send an email to the hamfest general chairman. The contents of the email need only contain the person's name, callsign and award designation. Of course, you may continue stating your reasons for the nomination. Your submission will remain confidential. Send your email to [harold @ rochesterhamfest.org](mailto:harold@rochesterhamfest.org). We will take it from there.

(Awards continued on page 10)

Hamfest Awards-continued from Page 9

You should plan to see your nominee honored. Attend the Awards Banquet, the only club function of its kind all year. Award recipients and the person who submitted the person's name will receive a complimentary dinner courtesy of the hamfest committee.

In addition to the awards you will also witness the transfer of the club gavel to the incoming President as well as the annual scholarship award presentation. There may be a few other surprises as well. We promise no speeches.

Local Ham Ad:

Free to a good home, GAP Titan DX vertical. It is sitting in my back yard.

Give a call to make the arrangements. 271-5524, Ken, N2XY.

The Events AWA Museum Spring Meet, May 7, 2005

7:00 a.m. Sellers only permitted to set up.

8:00 a.m. Meet officially opens for AWA Members and General Public. Flea Market and Vendors Open.

8:30 a.m. Sale of Excess items from the Museum Begins. View Auction Items. Members bring in their auction pieces.

9:00 a.m. First Program: A tour of the Hammond Museum of Radio in Guelph, Ontario. Started by Fred Hammond, VE3HC, a wonderful friend of the AWA, we will learn of how the museum continues to grow. By Nori Irwin, VE3AQZ, Museum Curator.

10:00 a.m. Auction of better Museum excess items followed immediately by auction of member items.

11:00 a.m. Second Program: In recognition of Benjamin Franklin's 300th Birthday, we will retrace his enormous contributions to electrical science. Our AWA Museum Director, Dr. Thomas Peterson, Jr., using present day video clips, an electrostatic machine and 18th century artifacts, will demonstrate Franklin's discoveries. Dr. Peterson worked in artificial lightning research at Stanford University and currently is supporting such work at M.I.T.'s High Voltage Laboratory. Don't miss this one!

12:30 p.m. AWA Directors and Trustee Meeting begins.

1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Tour of Museum Annex begins for 45 Minutes only. 6910 Route 5&20, Bloomfield.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Museum Opens for Tour. All Day. Visit coffee and snack area. Buy AWA publications, memberships, pins, CD's, more.

May Calendar

6 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road

11 - BARK - 7:00 PM, monthly construction meeting at KC2JKV, 1140 Peck Rd, Hilton

12 - RAPS - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at RIT, Bldg.-76, Room 2150

13 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.

17 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd.

20 - RRRR - 8:00 PM monthly meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.

21 - RaRa Testing - Room 2150, Bldg. 76 RIT, Registration 8:30 AM

25 - BARK - 7:00 PM monthly business meeting at Seymour Public Library, Brockport

June Rag Deadline May 13, 2005

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All Elements needed
to complete a license class.

3rd Saturday of each
month, Sept. - May
Registration - 8:30AM
Testing - 9:00AM

Room 2150, Building 76
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